**THE SOUND OF REJOICING IN JERUSALEM**

Nehemiah 11-12:47

Key Verse 12:43

And on that day they offered great sacrifices, rejoicing because God had given them great joy. The women and children also rejoiced. The sound of rejoicing in Jerusalem could be heard far away.

**Introduction[[1]](#footnote-1)**

1. How did Nehemiah successfully carry out his settlement plan in Jerusalem? (1) Why did people commend those who volunteered to live in Jerusalem? (2)
2. How many leader descendants from Judah and Benjamin settled in Jerusalem? (4-9) Why was their presence in the city important? How many priests (10-14), Levites (15-18) and gatekeepers (19) settled in Jerusalem? Why was their presence in the city important? What do you learn from all these families who took up residence in Jerusalem?
3. What happened soon after the covenant renewal ceremonies in chapters 8-10? (27a) Who was specifically sought out and brought together for the dedication of the wall of Jerusalem? (27-28) What was their task? (27b) Why do you think the priests and Levites purified themselves, the people, the gates and the wall?
4. During the dedication ceremony, what did Nehemiah tell the leaders of Judah to do? (31a) Why did he assign two large choirs and what were they to do? (31b-39) Under the direction of Jezrahiah, where did the choir continue to sing? Who joined them? (40-41a)
5. On the day of dedication, what did the men, women and children do? Why? (43) How great was their joy? Why did Nehemiah appoint men to be in charge of the storerooms? (44-47; 10:35-39) What else did the people do on the day after they heard the law? (13:1-3, Deut 23:3-6[[2]](#footnote-2))

1. Today’s passage is about the repopulation of Jerusalem and the dedication of the wall of Jerusalem. The house of God was rebuilt. But who would fill them and bring life to them? Once Jesus said, “The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few.” (Lk. 10:2) It is easy to worship God with lip service and empty promises. But purification, dedication and voluntary participation are required. This was exactly what the Israelited did. It resulted in great joy! [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. **Deut 23:3-6** No Ammonite or Moabite or any of their descendants may enter the assembly of the Lord, not even in the tenth generation. For they did not come to meet you with bread and water on your way when you came out of Egypt, and they hired Balaam son of Beor from Pethor in Aram Naharaim to pronounce a curse on you. However, the Lord your God would not listen to Balaam but turned the curse into a blessing for you, because the Lord your God loves you. Do not seek a treaty of friendship with them as long as you live [↑](#footnote-ref-2)